# VIRGINIA AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 12th, 2014

### **Time and Place**

The Virginia Area Committee (AC) Meeting was hosted by Clean Harbors Environmental Services in West Point, VA. LT Danielle Shupe, Sector Hampton Roads, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

#### **Items Discussed**

The meeting agenda items were:

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Workgroup Reports
- Case Study: West Virginia Water Contamination Mr.
  Michael Uncapher, Clean Harbors Environmental Services
- Presentation: VDEM Hazmat Teams Mr. Todd Cannon,
  VA Department of Emergency Management
- Presentation: Response Resource Inventory (RRI) and Preparedness Assessment Verification (PAV) – MST1 Eben Wilson, National Strike Force Coordination Center
- Open Discussion
- Closing Remarks

### **Welcome / Introductions**

Ms. Melissa Parker, the Clean Harbors Environmental Services General Manager, welcomed the group to their facility. She shared that Clean Harbors is growing their operations and they have expanded from six to 20 employees since February of 2013.

CAPT Chris Keane, alternate Captain of The Port, reviewed recent activities for Sector Hampton Roads.

• Second NIT Container Incident: On January 14<sup>th</sup>, Sector was notified by the MIRT of three 20ft containers off-gassing a "white smoke" by Norfolk International Terminal facility personnel. Facility personnel relocated all containers to the north end of the terminal. The material inside was verified and consistent with the 30% Non Ferrous Ash Container Incident in October of 2013. All containers were inspected and re-sealed by the Coast Guard and a hold placed on each

container. A fourth container was found under a different shipping number and isolated to the north side of the terminal. All containers were placed under hold. Negotiations are being conducted to determine a plan for placarding and shipping the material since it is not currently classified as a hazardous material. There is at least one other facility, in Portsmouth, that is also shipping this material.

Sector Hampton Roads recently conducted a site visit with Inashco to learn more about their operations. They are based at a landfill in Richmond and they collect waste construction materials for recycling. The material is shipped by container to the Netherlands for processing. Over one million tons of this product is shipped out of Virginia each year.

Mr. John Settle spoke on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia. He encouraged all attendees at the meeting to get involved in any of the various Area Committee workgroups and help contribute to Area Contingency Plan products.

## Workgroup Reports

*Training and Exercise Workgroup* (Senior Chief Jonathan Grimes):

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Search & Rescue Forum: This event is scheduled for March 3-7, 2014 in downtown Hampton. This training opportunity is geared towards teaching different elements of boat handling and joint agency coordination to local marine emergency responders. Area Committee members are welcome to attend portions of the classroom training or observe on-water operations. Please see the link below for details.

http://www.portofvirginia.com/security/search-and-rescue-forum.aspx

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 101 or Train-the-trainer: These 3 day courses are offered by VDEM in Pulaski, VA. Please contact Ms. Helen Poad at <a href="https://helen.poad@vdem.virginia.gov">helen.poad@vdem.virginia.gov</a> for more information.

Please contact Senior Chief Grimes at 757-295-2059 or <u>jonathan.m.grimes@uscg.mil</u> with any upcoming training and exercise questions or announcements.

Places of Refuge Workgroup (LT Danielle Shupe standing in for Mr. Gary Ott):

The PREP tabletop exercise held in September of 2013 highlighted the need to include additional information in the Places of Refuge (POR) annex, specifically, information about the role of the Responsible Party. Also, the workgroup is updating the notification process for a POR incident and clarifying how vessel assessments would be conducted offshore or at anchorage.

## West Virginia Water Contamination

Mr. Michael Uncapher, with Clean Harbors Environmental Services, briefed the committee on the response to a chemical spill into the Elk River in Charleston, WV. The facility, Freedom Industries inc. reported that 7,500 gallons of a chemical used for processing coal leaked from a storage tank, breached containment, and reached the river. A state of emergency was declared in nine counties and 300,000 people were left without potable water. Challenges to the response included rain and rough weather, lack of initial ICS structure, and no clear responsible party. Additionally, the tank continued to leak for 1.5 days after the hole was reportedly plugged, and the product was not classified as a hazardous substance, which made enforcement more difficult. At the time of the meeting, Clean Harbors was still actively responding to the spill.

### **VDEM Hazmat Teams**

Mr. Todd Cannon, VA Department of Emergency Management Technological Hazards Division Hazardous Materials Officer, provided an overview of the Technological Hazards Division. The goals of the division are to: develop the hazmat emergency response program, standardize hazmat training, maintain contacts with regional teams, and designate hazmat coordinators. The team uses a state-of-the-art CBRNE training center in Yorkton, VA that has intermodal containers and even railcars on site for realistic training. There are 13 regional hazmat teams and eight regional hazmat officers throughout Virginia. The hazmat officers are on-call 24/7 and can be notified through NRC or the Virginia Emergency Operations Center.

## Coast Guard Response Resource Inventory

MST1 Eben Wilson, Coast Guard National Strike Force Coordination Center, shared some information about the Response Resource Inventory (RRI). This online database can be accessed at the NSFCC homepage:

http://www.uscg.mil/hq/nsfweb/. The RRI is a response equipment locator system that receives its' information from OSRO's and other companies that want information about their equipment available to the public. Participation is voluntary, except for OSRO's who have requested classification by the Coast Guard.

### **Open Discussion**

Area Committee Name Change: As a result of transferring the Eastern Shore of Maryland to the Upper Chesapeake Area Committee, which is coordinated by Sector Baltimore, the Virginia and Coastal Maryland Area Committee and Area Contingency Plan needed new names. After consulting with several of the workgroup chairs, the titles "Virginia Area Committee" and "Virginia Area Contingency Plan" were selected.

Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise (GIUE): On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Sector Hampton Roads conducted a Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise (GIUE) at Honeywell Chemical Plant in Hopewell, VA. These exercises fall under the Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) and are designed to test the ability of a facility or vessel to make notifications and deploy response equipment in accordance with their Facility or Vessel Response Plan. In addition, to deploying their own equipment, Honeywell also activated Clean Harbors as their OSRO. Honeywell successfully passed the GIUE and will be exempt from doing another for 36 months.

**Dam River Spill:** Mr. Keith Primm, VDEQ, shared with the group that on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, a pipe ruptured at the Duke Energy Power Plant, spilling 87,000 tons of fly ash slurry into the Dan River near Eden, NC. VDEQ reported that the NRDA for that event was scheduled to begin on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

New Dewatering Trailer: Mr. Leonard Rich, the USCG D5 DRAT Equipment Specialist, passed that the Coast Guard's 15 Vessel of Opportunity Skimming Systems (VOSS) throughout the country will soon be moved to a centralized location where they will be more accessible in the event of a spill of national significance. However, he has been granted approval to retain

some of the equipment to outfit a dewatering trailer for use in Hampton Roads. Currently the closest dewatering systems are located with Navy SUPSALV at Cheatham Annex or with the USCG Atlantic Strike Team in Cape May, NJ. This dewatering trailer could serve as a "band-aid" response while other assets are en-route. The dewatering system will be tested at the annual Marine Firefighting Symposium, May 13<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

NOAA Navigation Manager Update: (LCDR Denise Gruccio, NOAA, requested that this information be shared with the AC members) The website for the latest in nautical charting information is <a href="www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov">www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov</a>. This is your one stop shop for viewing nautical charts online, downloading charts in various formats including as a pdf file (all for free). For those who need paper charts that meet carriage requirements can find contact info for Print on Demand vendors. These vendors can print charts within 24 hrs of your order using proper paper, ink etc.

Future editions of nautical charts of the Intracoastal Waterway will be updated to include an improved "magenta line" that has historically aided navigation down the East Coast and around the Gulf Coast. Additionally, Coast Survey will change the magenta line's function, from the perceived "recommended route" established more than a hundred years ago, to an advisory directional guide that helps prevent boaters from going astray in the maze of channels that comprise the route.

NOAA's National Ocean Service is working with FEMA to write pre-scripted mission assignments to facilitate future tasking of NOAA for use of such services as hydrographic surveying and geospatial analysis during emergency response situations.

The HSRP is holding a public meeting in downtown New York City on February 25-26, 2014. During the two-day public meeting, the HSRP will hear from regional and local stakeholders, partners, users, and other interested parties on the use and application of NOAA's navigation data, products, and services to support a safe, efficient, and resilient marine transportation system. Maritime stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the breakout sessions, especially ones scheduled for February 26, 2014. Webex service is available. To register please email kathy.watson@noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/meetings.htm

For additional questions on any of these topics, please contact LCDR Denise Gruccio at <a href="mailto:Denise.Gruccio@noaa.gov">Denise.Gruccio@noaa.gov</a>.

## **Final Thoughts**

The next AC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May  $21^{st}$ , 2014.

As there were no other items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. A tour of the Clean Harbors facility was offered after the meeting.